

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
January 19, 2011**

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Superior Court- Commonwealth v. Robert Silva

BROCKTON, MA --- Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz today announced that Robert Silva, age 25, of Wareham, MA was convicted by a Superior Court jury in Brockton on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 for the offenses of Murder in the First Degree and Armed Robbery.

The incident took place in a wooded area behind Commonwealth Avenue in Wareham on June 9, 2004. The defendant and Eric Pimental, who was convicted of First Degree Murder and Armed Robbery in 2006, encountered Thomas Loftus, age 47, while walking through the woods. The evidence at trial was that the two men decided to rob and beat Mr. Loftus. His badly beaten body was found by a man walking his dogs the following day. His body had been dragged deeper into the woods by the two defendants. The two defendants were found to be in possession of Mr. Loftus' belongings shortly after the murder.

Following the four day trial, the jury deliberated for seven hours over two days before reaching its verdict. Following the jury's verdict, Judge Richard Chin imposed the mandatory sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole, and a concurrent sentence of 4 to 5 years in state prison for the Armed Robbery offense. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Karen O'Sullivan and Donna Riordan. The defendant was represented by Attorney Mark Shea.

District Attorney Cruz commends the prosecutors and the police investigators from the Massachusetts State Police and the Wareham Police Department for their efforts in the case. Cruz stated, *"This was a particularly brutal crime. The entire community is safer with this defendant off the street. Through the hard work of the prosecutors and police assigned to this case, we were able to see justice done for the victim and his family."*

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